

**TOWN OF WHITEHALL
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
WHITEHALL, NY 12887
7:00PM**

August 18, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rozell, Supervisor
David Hollister, Councilperson
Christopher Dudley, Councilperson
Stephanie Safka, Councilperson
Timothy Kingsley, Councilperson

OTHERS PRESENT: Patti Gordon, Town Clerk; Louis D. Pratt, Superintendent of Highways; Martin Rocque, Compliance Officer; Genevieve Hollis, Rec Leader; Caton Deuso, Whitehall Time Reporter; Riley Ballard, Karen Petrie, Barbara Spoor.

Supervisor Rozell opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Riley Ballard with the Christmas committee came to ask the Town Board for permission to use Skenesborough Park for the annual Christmas party with Santa and parade on December 18, 2021 and to decorate the Park as well.

Motion to allow the Christmas Committee to utilize the park for the annual Christmas party made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED: **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Supervisor Rozell asked that when they decorate, they put up the decorations approximately a week before the parade and remove them the week after the holidays. Highway Superintendent Pratt asked the Boards permission to have one of the Town Highway trucks in the parade, the board agreed to the suggestion

Motion to approve the monthly minutes from the July 21, 2021 town Board meeting made by Councilperson Safak and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Town Heritage Report by Carol Greenough – No Report

Town Recreation Report by Genevieve Hollis – Written and verbal.

-There are some plumbing issues that need to be address as well as the water fountain not working. Supervisor Rozell said that he was aware of the water fountain and it will be being replaced.

-Town Clerk Patti Gordon, stated that the handicap swing has been ordered and should be here in 10-12 weeks.

Councilperson Safka would like to see and additional camera added at the recreation center centered on the new handicap swing that is going to be installed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONTINUED

Barbara Spoor from the Whitehall Chamber of Commerce came to update the Town Board on the Sasquatch Festival. There are several vendors and food trucks signed up, at this time they have a waiting list for vendors. The Village approved Saratoga Draft Horse in Riverside Park which will be offering beer, wine and ciders on tap which will be contained to that area. Supervisor Rozell stated that he will have someone to empty the garbage cans. The only thing they need at this point are garbage cans and traffic cones. There is a website: sasquatchfestivalny.com and if anyone needs to contact the chamber the number is 518-499-4435.

Town Dog Control Report by Nancy Quell – Written

Town Compliance Officer Report by Martin Rocque – No report at this time

-Compliance Officer Rocque stated that everything seems to be moving in a positive direction with our current “hot spots”. Supervisor Rozell stated that Mr. McKinney and Mr. McKinney both came to speak with Supervisor Rozell. They informed Supervisor Rozell that they want to apply for a junk yard permit and Supervisor Rozell told them to come to the next Planning Board Meeting and they help them with the paperwork. Also, work is being done on County Route 12, but there needs to be more done on the Cemetery Lane side.

Town Clerk Report by Patti Gordon – Written

I, Patti Gordon the Town Clerk, would like to officially go on the record stating that I am unable to locate the Town Meeting Minutes from 1990 to 2007 at this time. I spoke with Melanie Howard, Washington County Archivist who said they have the town minutes on microfilm up to 1992. I will also check with the previous clerks and see if they have any knowledge of them. Also, The County recently received notification that it was approved for the LGRMIF grant for shared services. The Town of Whitehall is included in this grant for shared services. The Town vital records will be scanned by a company called Secure Scan and put onto a computer server. The Town will be receiving a new computer and scanner which is included in the grant. Once the process is complete, they will be stored permanently at Washington County archives.

Town Assessor Report by Roberta Stone – No Report

Town Supervisor Report by John Rozell

-2020 census report compared to the 2010 census, the town has lost a total of 19. The count does not include the Amish, they were not included.

-The Town received approximately \$141,000 through the American Rescue Plan and there are only certain ways that money can be spent. There is a company that will be reviewing the County’s AUDs from 2016 to 2020 to see what the loss revenue was since the pandemic started and return it to the Federal Government. If the money does not get used you have to return it. Due to the fact that we do not have infrastructure such as water and sewer like the Village, we can use it for example toward the Recreation Center for the payment of employees that did not work at the beginning of the pandemic. We are also going to put the fire company in to see what they have for lost revenue. We approximately have a loss revenue of \$63,000.00. The figures may change but at this time there is \$113,949.66 of of the \$141,000 that can be put back into the fund balance and use it any way we would like to use it. The Cost of the Company (EFPR GROUP, CPAs) is a one-time fee of \$2,000.00 which will come out of the relief program so it will not cost the Town anything. They will be approximately \$20,000 left and we are going to see if it can be given to the Village.

Motion to allow Supervisor Rozell to sign the contract for EFPR GROUP, CPAs to audit the AUDs for revenue loss calculation made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

The Town received the propane contract from Lake Champlain Coal Co. The Current price is \$1.78 per gallon. There is an increase of 0.58 cents from last years 1.20 per gallon. We do have a credit of 369 gallons at \$1.20 which will be carried over.

Motion to accept the contract from Lake Champlain Coal Co. at 1.78 per gallon made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
NAYS **0**

Motion to purchase 1,650 gallons of propane for made by Councilperson Kingsley and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
NAYS **0**

Town Budget Officer and Transfers by Joel Carpenter – Written

Town Planning Board Report by Gregg Chappell – Written

Town Highway Report by Louis D. Pratt II – Written

-CHIPS money was used to pave Upper Turnpike, there is still approximately \$50,000 to use that will be used on Hollister Road and Lamphere Road. The work will be done somewhere approximately the end of October to the First of November.

Motion to approve any vouchers that come in having to do with the \$ 50,000.00 Grant project made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
NAYS **0**

Highway Superintendent Pratt brought up that the Recreation Center parking lot is in need of repair. He said he could get approximately 15 ton of hot patch and repair the bad spots. Supervisor Rozell agreed something need to be done, especially if the Hudson Headwaters medical van ever starts operating at the Recreation Center, we will be responsible for anyone crossing the parking lot until they reach the steps of the van.

Motion to allow Superintendent of Highways to use 15 tons of hot mix to repair the Recreation Center parking lot made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
NAYS **0**

Motion to approve the monthly reports made by Councilperson Safka and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
NAYS **0**

BUSINESS TO DISCUSS

Museum Operations:

Councilperson Kingsley would like to see the Museum open on a regular basis as well as Councilperson Safka. The Town Board discussed who was in charge of hiring and overall operations. At this point it is not clear. Supervisor Rozell suggested forming a committee consisting of two people from the Village Board and two people from the Town Board and discuss the matter. Supervisor Rozell stated that the Town makes no decisions on the Museum, it is however responsible for the building repairs. The Town

does not pay the Heritage Director directly. The Town pays the Village and the Village in turn pays the Heritage Director.

Motion to form a committee with two members from the Town and two members from the Village to spear head the direction they would like to go with for the museum made by Councilperson Dudley and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister

ADOPTED **AYES** **5** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

The two members from the Town Board that will be on the committee will be Councilperson Safka and Councilperson Dudley.

The board discussed the use of Skenesborough Park for the use of the Town wide yard sale.

Motion not to allow private yard sale entities to use Skenesborough Park made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Kingsley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Park donations for August were \$135.00, total to date \$251.00.

Recreation Center Request for Cub Scout Pack 6083 from 6/2021 to 5/2022 for monthly meetings.

Motion to approve Recreation Center use for Cub Scout Pack 6083 to use from 6/2021 to 5/2022 for monthly meetings and to waive the \$150.00 deposit made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Supervisor Rozell.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Recreation Leader Hollis informed the Board that Tyler Michaud was aging out of the L.E.A.P. Program on September 8, 2021 and asked how the Town Board would like to proceed. Supervisor Rozell stated that that is a personnel issue and would need to be discussed in executive session.

Abstract #8 of 2021

General Fund V# 1/20 \$ 7,540.05

Highway Fund V#1/12 \$ 51,922.05

Motion to approve monthly vouchers for abstract #8 of 2021 made by Councilperson Hollister and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Motion to go into executive session for litigation and personnel reasons made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Safka.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Motion to come out of executive session with no decision rendered made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Hollister.

ADOPTED **AYES** **5** **Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley**
 NAYS **0**

Motion to adjourn the Town Board Meeting made by Supervisor Rozell and Seconded by Councilperson Dudley.

ADOPTED **AYES** 5 Rozell, Hollister, Dudley, Safka, Kingsley
 NAYS 0

Adjourned
Respectfully Submitted

Patti Gordon
Town Clerk

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